

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With entry of the present Amendment, claims 2, 5-15, 17-31 and 33-72 are pending in the above-referenced patent application and are presented for examination. More particularly, claims 1, 3, 4, 16, 32 and 73-83 have been cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution, and claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 23, 30, 33-36, 38-47, 51-54, 60, 61 and 69 have been amended. Support for the amendments to such claims can be found in the specification, claims and figures as originally filed and, thus, no new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment.

In the Office Action, claims 1-83 were only rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-83 of U.S. Patent No. 6,680,178. In view of the amendments made to the claims with entry of the present Amendment, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants urge the Examiner to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Appl. No. 10/686,884
Amdt. dated March 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 9, 2004

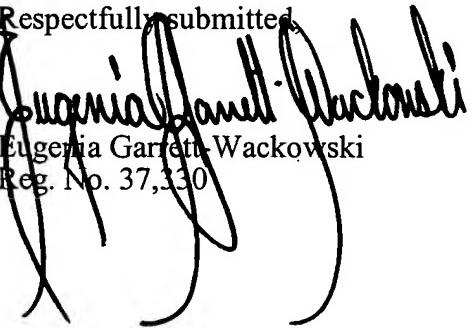
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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